

Frankford Arsenal, Building 216

North side of Hagner Road between Montgomery Street
and Mellon Street

Philadelphia

Philadelphia County

Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-74K

PHILA,

693-K-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Frankford Arsenal, Building 216

HAER No. PA-74K

HAER
PA.
51-PHILA.
693-K-

Location: North side of Hagner Road between Montgomery Street and Mellon Street
Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

Quad: Frankford

Date of Construction: 1899

Significance: Building 216 is associated with the modest expansion of Frankford Arsenal that occurred at the turn of the century. The building originally served as coal storage for the adjacent boiler house (Building 217), constructed in 1899 when Building 215 was converted into the arsenal's small arms cartridge factory.

Historian: Patrick W. O'Bannon
Principal Historian
John Milner Associates, Inc.
1216 Arch Street, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

HISTORY

The northern portion of Building 216 (approximately 21 feet by 45 feet) was constructed in 1899, probably as a coal storage facility for Building 217, which served as the boiler house for the small arms cartridge factory installed in Building 215 in 1898. The building was partially destroyed by fire sometime prior to 1919 and was subsequently rebuilt. This work entailed raising the exterior brick walls five feet above their original height and constructing a new sawtooth roof. In 1939, the building was converted to use as a tool hardening shop with the construction, by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), of a seventy-five-foot-long addition at the south end of the original building. Additional alterations, including a new gabled roof and a single-story connection to Building 217, were constructed in the 1940s.

DESCRIPTION

Building 216 is a single-story brick building with a raised concrete foundation, measuring approximately 21 feet by 120 feet. A single story shed-roofed office/locker room is attached to the west facade and a single-story flat-roofed passage connects to Building 217 from the east facade. The gabled roof, supported by steel Fink trusses, has composition roofing and corbeled brick cornice. Window openings are rectangular, with nine-over-nine double-hung sash. The interior is open, with a concrete floor.

SOURCE

John Milner Associates, "Historical and Archeological Survey of Frankford Arsenal," West Chester, PA: John Milner Associates, 1979.

Report prepared for the Department of the Army, Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers, Baltimore, Maryland. Copies on file at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Free Library of Philadelphia, and the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

For complete overview of site, see HAER No. PA-74.

